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Cong tried to...**

the Congress to "declare" openly that if it comes to power it would provide reservation to Muslims out of the quota for Dalits and tribals.

The prime minister said when the BJP government in Karnataka got an opportunity, it abolished the Muslim quota created by the Congress government out of the reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

He said the constitutional limit for reservation - in education and government jobs -- was ending in 2020 and he extended it for Dalits and the tribals for another 10 years.

Referring to his Sunday rally, Modi said the Congress and the opposition INDIA bloc were peeved after he "exposed" their vote bank and appeasement politics.

"I have put forth the truth before the country that the Congress is hatching a deep conspiracy to snatch your wealth and distribute it among select people," he said.

He claimed that when he exposed the vote bank politics of Congress, it angered the Congress and its INDI Alliance so much that they have started abusing him everywhere. Why is the Congress scared of the truth and "hiding" its policies, the prime minister asked.

"You made the policy and took the decision and when Modi exposed the secret and your hidden agenda came out, you are trembling," he said.

He said it was written in the Congress manifesto that they would "survey" people's wealth.

"Their leader has said in a speech that X-ray of wealth will be done. This means that if something is kept in a box or hidden in a wall, it will be searched through X-ray," Modi claimed.

They will then seize property from people who have more than what is required and distribute it among others, he added.

Modi also referred to an incident in Karnataka some weeks back when a shopkeeper was allegedly thrashed for playing Hanuman Chalisa. "Even listening to Hanuman Chalisa becomes crime under Congress rule," he said.

He claimed that during the Congress rule in Rajasthan, those who pelted stones on a Ram Navami procession were given protection and restrictions were imposed on such processions.

However, after the formation of the BJP government in the state, no one has the courage to question faith, he added.

"Now, you will recite Hanuman Chalisa peacefully and also celebrate Ram Navami. This is the guarantee of the BJP," he said.

The prime minister also accused the Congress of throwing Malpura, Karauli, Chhabra, Tonk and Jodhpur into the "fire of riots" during its term in Rajasthan.

He said had the BJP not come to power in 2014, stones would still be pelted on security personnel in Jammu and Kashmir, enemies would cross the border to chop off the heads of Indian soldiers, and serials blasts take place.

"The Congress party finds new opportunities for corruption in the country's troubles. You people have freed yourself from the clutches of the Congress only a few months ago," he said referring to Congress defeat in the last assembly polls.

"The people of Rajasthan can never forget the wounds inflicted by the Congress while it was in power," he said.

Modi said he is dedicated to the Constitution and is a person who worships Babasaheb Ambedkar. This was the prime minister's last election rally in Rajasthan where the final round of polling will take place on April 26.

Rajouri killing: Search...

Akbar was also killed by terrorists 19 years ago in the same village. Akbar worked in the Social Welfare Department, and Razaq was given a job by the government on compassionate grounds in the same department, they said.

Meanwhile, the security forces busted a terrorist hideout in the village of Azmatnabad in Rajouri district last week. They recovered eight Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), two wireless sets, and some ammunition, officials said.

Rajouri and Poonch districts have witnessed targeted attacks by terrorists on the army and civilians in the past few years, they added.

LeT terrorists behind...

famous shrine, Shahdra Sharief," official said adding that the brother of TA official, namely Mohd Razaq was shot dead by the terrorists in the aftermath of TA official getting slip from their clutches.

"Criminal case in FIR No.48 under Sections 302, 120b, 121a, 122, 458 IPC, 7/27 IAA and 13,15,16 UAPA has been registered at PS Thanamandi of District Rajouri," official said adding that investigation to track down each and every person involved in this terror act has been set into motion.

"During investigations credible evidences have been obtained, which identify one of the terrorist involved in committing this act as "foreign terrorist" with code name Abu Hamza," official said.

Police along with SFs deployed in the twin districts of Rajouri-Poonch Range are working in close synergy to neutralise this group and dismantle their support ecosystem.

"Anybody sharing any specific information about terrorist involved in the terror attack at Kunda Top Rajouri shall be rewarded with Rs 10 lakh," a bulletin issued by the police said.

Army Commander reviews...

Acknowledging the participation of 136 female PSIs, he underscored the commitment towards inclusive training initiatives.

The collaboration between the Indian Army and the Jammu & Kashmir Police was emphasised as indispensable in striving towards a secure and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

An Army spokesperson stated that this is the first major training capsule of its kind, where the Army is training officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in such large numbers at one go.

The trainee cops expressed confidence that the training provided by the Army would result in better coordination between the two elite organisations through sharing and understanding each other's strengths, ethos, culture, values, and best practices.

"Obviously, we have learned a lot here, and this has given us a lot of confidence to overcome difficult situations, as evident from the positive change in our behaviour," said Sonalika Sharma, a trainee PSI with the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Another PSI said that what we have learned here has really boosted our confidence, especially at the beginning of our careers. "Besides this, the joint training with the Army will surely help us work in synergy with the Army and coordinate better to help bring peace in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

LG highlights NEP's...

industries," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor said after centuries, there has been a new awakening in the society and after several decades there is a new education policy that is rooted in Indian ethos and emphasises on extensive use of technology, research and innovation, experiential and innovative approaches, integration of technology such as machine learning and artificial intelligence and promotion of start-up incubation centres to transform India.

"NEP 2020 focuses on true values and teachings of our glorious heritage and civilization and prepares the students with industry 4.0 technology, lifelong learning skills so that our young generation is capable to face the future challenges and transform India into a knowledge economy," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also encouraged and motivated the youth to make their important contribution in prosperity and development of the region.

Congress destroyed secular...

Congress stating in its manifesto that properties will be surveyed. Now they have an objection to it. What do you (Congress) want to do by getting properties surveyed? Everyone should have equal rights over the country's resources...," Singh said.

On Sunday, the PM had triggered a political row by claiming that the Congress manifesto promised "redistribution" of wealth after conducting a survey.

The defence minister asserted that people should vote for a "tapasvi" prime minister like Modi, who ensured that India figured among the top five global economies in "just seven years".

The country would feature among the top three economies after the US and China in three years, he said.

"It was due to PM Modi's tireless work that India is being taken seriously on global forums now... He had facilitated the return of 22,500 stranded Indian students from war-torn Ukraine, after speaking to Russian President Vladimir Putin," Singh said.

Hitting out at former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren, Singh said it was unprecedented in India's history that a CM went missing.

"Currently, he (Soren) is in jail as a government guest," he said, adding that Jharkhand had three BJP chief ministers - Babul Marandi, Arjun Munda and Raghubar Das - but none faced any corruption charge.

Singh also said during the BJP regime, no tribal land was looted in Jharkhand,

"which is rampant now". "BJP gave due respect and recognition to tribals," he said.

Congress sabotaged Jammu's...

of BJP candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma said, Congress and its allied governments have not only caused damage to the Kandi areas of Samba and Kathua by denying them their due but had also gone to the extent of working against the national interest just to appease certain sections by following an approach of regional discrimination.

Elaborating further, Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that way back in 1960 the Indus Water Treaty was finalised between India and Pakistan by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan President Ayub Khan, as a result of which, the three major river waters that India was to share happened to be Ravi, Satluj and Beas. By constructing Shahpur-Kandi Dam, he said, India was to utilize the her share of water from river Ravi for irrigating 3500 to 4000 hectares of land in Samba and Kathua border districts of Jammu & Kashmir as well as Gurdaspur and Pathankot districts of Punjab.

While the Punjab government was forthcoming in cooperating to set up this project, the successive governments in Jammu & Kashmir avoided it on one pretext or the other till Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over in 2014 and the project was revived, he added.

Similarly, Dr. Jitendra said, Congress and its allies had denied 4% of reservation to the youth living along the International Border of Samba while allowing the same to the youth along the LoC, simply because of vote bank politics. This anomaly, he said, was also undone after Prime Minister Modi took over.

Dr. Singh said, with the new industry coming up in Samba and the surrounding regions, the entire belt from Kathua to Samba holds the potential to emerge as a major recruitment and training centre of North India particularly because of its connection with three territories mainly Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr Jitendra said that this entire belt has been traditionally known to be inhabited by marshal race and the youth of this area were always known for their valour and bravery in Armed Forces, both before independence and afterwards. But, unfortunately, again it was the Congress government which cancelled the Dogra certificate and denied the youth of this region the opportunities of recruitment in the Armed Forces.

Dr. Singh recalled the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Udhampur rally where he had said that what has happened in the last ten years is just a trailer and that much more is in store to happen in the next five years.

In the context of this region, he said, the earlier ten years were spent in making up for the lapses of the past, but the next five years are going to throw up this region as a frontline runner in India's growth story.

Former Minister Chandra Prakash Ganga, BJP Samba President Kashmira Singh, Senior party leaders Jagvir Singh, Narain Singh, Rashpal Verma, Munish Khajuria, DDCs, PRIs, Mandal Presidents, BJP office bearers, Mahila Moreha members led by Prabhari Arti and BJYM activists were prominent among those who accompanied Dr Jitendra Singh at different locations.

5 more candidates...

independent candidates.

Similarly, Younis Ahmad Mir also submitted his nomination papers today before the Returning Officer (RO) as a candidate of Bharat Jodo Party for the Srinagar Constituency.

The Last date for filing of nomination papers in 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency is April 25, 2024 (Thursday) from 11:00 am to 03:00 pm. The Scrutiny of the nomination papers filed by the Candidates will take place on April 26, 2024 (Friday).

The Candidates have the option to withdraw their candidature by or before April 29, 2024 (Monday) until 03:00 pm. The voting is scheduled in the Constituency for May 13 under fourth phase.

With Two (02) candidates already filed their nominations on April 22, 2024, the number of candidates to contest from the Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat on Tuesday increased to Seven.

CS reviews working...

even more important in view of the greater chances of fake/misinformative news finding its way to the public consumption.

He enjoined upon the Department to be a bridge between the public and the administration for ensuring an effective two-way communication between both. He observed that since every department has some people-oriented aspects of great repute, it should be ensured that the success stories are published for optimum publicity in the larger public interest. He also favoured inspiring the youth for foraying in different vocations by sharing success stories registered by people in different areas of interest.

Regarding the promotion of J&K as a popular film shooting destination, the Chief Secretary maintained that the Department has an added responsibility to facilitate the Production Houses in smooth and hasslefree completion of their projects. He advised for taking on board the institutes of national eminence like NFDC, ISD, IIMC etc. for holding film festivals, conducting workshops and Film Bazaars for different stakeholders.

The CS also took note of media campaigns, social media activities, advertisements, cultural activities and other capex works taken up by the Department during 2023-2024.

In her detailed presentation, the Administrative Secretary, Information Department, Rehana Batul gave out a brief about the functioning, role and responsibilities assigned to the Department. She revealed that during the previous financial year, the Department has undertaken robust public outreach activities by issuing about 15,498 press releases and giving widespread coverage to more than 600 government programs.

She elucidated that the department works by way of utilizing multiple mediums such as print, radio, audio-visual, digital & social media to keep the masses well informed about the policies, programmes and activities of the government. Regarding the social media reach, it was revealed that the FB pages of DIPR have cumulative 3,56,000 followers, X (Twitter), 3,16,000 followers, Instagram and YouTube Channels have 6,000 followers each.

Director Information, Jatin Kishore, took the opportunity to apprise the meeting that the Department after conducting an exhaustive exercise has recently launched Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy 2024 which is much more inclusive, futuristic and incentive driven. It was also revealed that the onboarding of Film Shooting permissions and Film Subsidies on the Single Window Platform is being done.

The Director also informed about the new initiatives undertaken by the Department for the timely dissemination of news to the public. He mentioned that the Department has introduced the features like Rebuttal(s) issuance against the fake news items.

It was also revealed that the Department plans to hold Film Festival and Literary festivals later this year. He revealed that the Department has recently launched the Season 2 of two youth oriented programs namely "Inspire Gen-Z" and "Beats of J&K" in the first ever mega Youth Conclave at Jammu.

Furthermore, the meeting was apprised about the mega outreach campaigns carried out by the Department during the past year. It was mentioned that the Department has been successful in giving wide publicity to major events like G-20, UT Foundation Day, Annual Shri Amarnath Ji yatra and the VVIP visits to the Union Territory.

PDP has become...

The National Conference vice-president said he understands the PDP chief will put pressure on the BJP to make Bukhari change his statement.

"I take it that Mehbooba Mufti will put pressure on the BJP to get Mushtaq Bukhari to change his statement but the cat is out of the bag now. After the A-team and the B-team, the PDP has now joined as the C-team of the BJP," Abdullah added.

Mehbooba joined the electoral fray from the Anantnag-Rajouri seat after the National Conference refused to accommodate the PDP chief, citing its victory from all three Lok Sabha constituencies in the Kashmir Valley in 2019.

Asked about the BJP not fielding incumbent Ladakh MP Jamyang Namgyal, Abdullah said it does not concern him.

"It is an internal matter of the BJP. I am only concerned that the Congress should field the right candidate from Ladakh as we are contesting there together. There should be no room for a BJP win there," he added.

BJP won't let...

the Congress party say they will scrap the CAA. However, as long as the BJP is around, it will not let the Congress even touch the CAA," Shah asserted.

The CAA, enacted by the BJP-led government in 2019, seeks to grant citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim immigrants, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and Christians, from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan who entered India before December 31, 2014.

Shah said the Modi government, on returning to office after the Lok Sabha polls, will bring citizens above 70 years under the ambit of the free health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh and supply cooking gas cylinders directly to consumers.

The BJP leader alleged the Congress is spreading lies that the Modi government will scrap reservations for Dalits, tribals and OBCs in jobs and education if it comes back to power with 400-plus Lok Sabha seats.

The Modi government is in power for the last ten years, but it has used its parliamentary majority to repeal Article 370, counter terrorism, ban instant triple talaq and bring CAA, he maintained.

"The Modi government will never change the Constitution or scrap reservations for SCs/STs/OBCs," the BJP leader told the gathering in Akola, where voting will take place on April 26 in the second phase.

Shah lauded the 'Mahayuti' government in Maharashtra, saying they have done mega development works in the last few years.

He said the BJP, which is part of the ruling coalition in the state, is determined to increase irrigation facilities in Vidarbha.

Shah highlighted the Rs 89,000-crore Painganga interlinking project, which will bring about 4 lakh hectares of land in Nagpur, Wardha, Amravati, Yavatmal, Akola and Buldhana districts -- all located in Vidarbha -- under irrigation.

The BJP veteran asked former Union minister Sharad Pawar what the "Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan government" gave to Maharashtra during its 10-year rule.

The NDA government at the Centre gave Rs 7.14 lakh crore to Maharashtra in the last 10 years, while the Congress-headed dispensation provided only Rs 1.91 lakh crore to the state during its rule from 2004 to 2014, he added.

Shah targeted the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which comprises the Congress, the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP (SP), saying they cannot do any good for Maharashtra, and asked electors to vote for the BJP and bring it back to power at the Centre.

Terror module member...

killings in Jammu and Kashmir to create fear and unrest.

Pakistan-based operatives were allegedly handling the accused, the DGP said. "Acting swiftly in an intelligence-based operation, Counter Intelligence (of Punjab Police) #Jalandhar averts target killings planned by cross-border operatives. One member of the terror module arrested with a #Chinese pistol and cartridges," Yadav wrote in a post on X.

According to a Punjab Police statement, the arrested accused has been identified as Lovepreet Singh alias Picho of Udho Nangal village in Amritsar.

Police teams have also recovered one .30-bore automatic Chinese pistol along with a magazine and four live cartridges from his possession, it said.

The statement quoting DGP Yadav said that acting swiftly on intelligence inputs, Punjab police teams from Counter Intelligence, Jalandhar laid a special 'naka' (check barrier) in the area of Rama Mandi, Jalandhar, and arrested the accused after recovering the sophisticated automatic pistol from his possession.

Sharing more details, Senior Superintendent of Police, Counter Intelligence, Jalandhar; Navjot Singh Mahal said that the accused has received money in his bank account via Dubai and procured the pistol along with ammunition from Samba in J&K.

A case was registered on Monday under relevant sections of the IPC and under the Arms Act at State Special Operations Cell police station in Amritsar, he said, adding further investigations are going on.

ADGP reviews security in Rajouri following killing of soldier's brother by terrorists

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Jammu and Kashmir Additional Director General of Police Anand Jain on Tuesday reviewed the security situation in the Union Territory's Rajouri district following the killing of a government employee by the terrorists.

He stressed the need to maintain surveillance in the area in view of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections to prevent any disturbance by anti-national elements.

Jain impressed upon the urgent need to leverage technology for the identification of terror networks and to emphasise on the use of data analytics to enhance functional efficiency.

A search operation has been intensified in Rajouri to track down the terrorists involved in the killing of a man belonging to the Gujjar community.

The incident occurred on Monday night when the victim, Mohammad Razaq (40), came out of a mosque in his village Kunda Top under the Thanamandi police station area. Razaq's brother, Mohammad Tahir Choudhary, is a soldier in the Territorial Army.

While Razaq succumbed to his injuries, Choudhary escaped unhurt, according to the police.

Jain, who visited Rajouri to oversee and reinforce security measures in the border district, conducted a security review meeting which was attended by key stakeholders, including senior police officials. The meeting served as a platform to assess the existing security landscape and strategise for enhanced vigilance.

The ADGP was briefed about the security measures in place to tackle any untoward incidents across the Rajouri-Poonch districts as well as the Jammu province.

Discussions revolved around various aspects of security, encompassing threat assessments, countermeasures and collaborative efforts among the security agencies, they said.

He stressed the need for enhanced security measures and proactive operations against the terrorist networks in Rajouri. It was stressed to maintain surveillance in the area by all the stakeholders, especially with the elections round the corner, to prevent any action by anti-national elements, they said.

The meeting also highlighted the need to generate actionable inputs to thwart attempts by the anti-national elements to disturb the elections.

It underscored the imperative of synergy and coordination among different security agencies to ensure the seamless conduct of the upcoming elections and to address any emerging security challenges effectively, they said.

General, Police Observer interact with Zonal, Sectoral Magistrates, BLOs of district Reasi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: To fortify the Election preparedness and ensure seamless operation during



the upcoming elections, General Observer for 5-Jammu Parliamentary Constituency (PC), Rahul Ranjan Mahiwal, and Police Observer, Dr. Gajarao Bhupal, interacted with Zonal/Sectoral Magistrates, Zonal/Sectoral Officers and BLOs of the Reasi district, here today.

During the interaction, the Observers reviewed the electoral arrangements made at different

levels in the district ahead of polling scheduled on April 26.

The General Observer asked the stakeholders to perform their duties with dedication and efficiency during the elections.

General/Police Observers also interacted with BLOs and gave away essential kits comprising necessary material to them.

DIG Rayees Mohammad Bhat; SSP Reasi Mohita Sharma; ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal; Nodal Officer MCC Kulbushan Khajuria; Nodal officer Training Mohammad Anwar Bandy; ARO 57-Reasi, ARO 56-Reasi, ARO 57-Reasi, ARO 58- Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Dy. DEO, Master Trainer, Nodal Officer MCMC and other officers were present on the occasion.

Hanuman Jayanti celebrated at Shiv Shakti Temple

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hanuman Jayanti was celebrated at Shiv Shakti Temple, Sector 2, Gangyal, here on Tuesday.

On the occasion, huge gathering participated in Sunder Kand Path. Prashad was distributed after the Path. All this arrangements was made by the Mandir Committee headed by Dev Raj Sharma, Chairman. Main focus was the Bogh of 21 kg Laddu to Hanuman Ji by the People Welfare Committee, Sector 2, Gangyal by the President Dev Raj Sharma and Vice President Er. S.K Jalpuri. All people participated in Bhajans and Kirtan.

